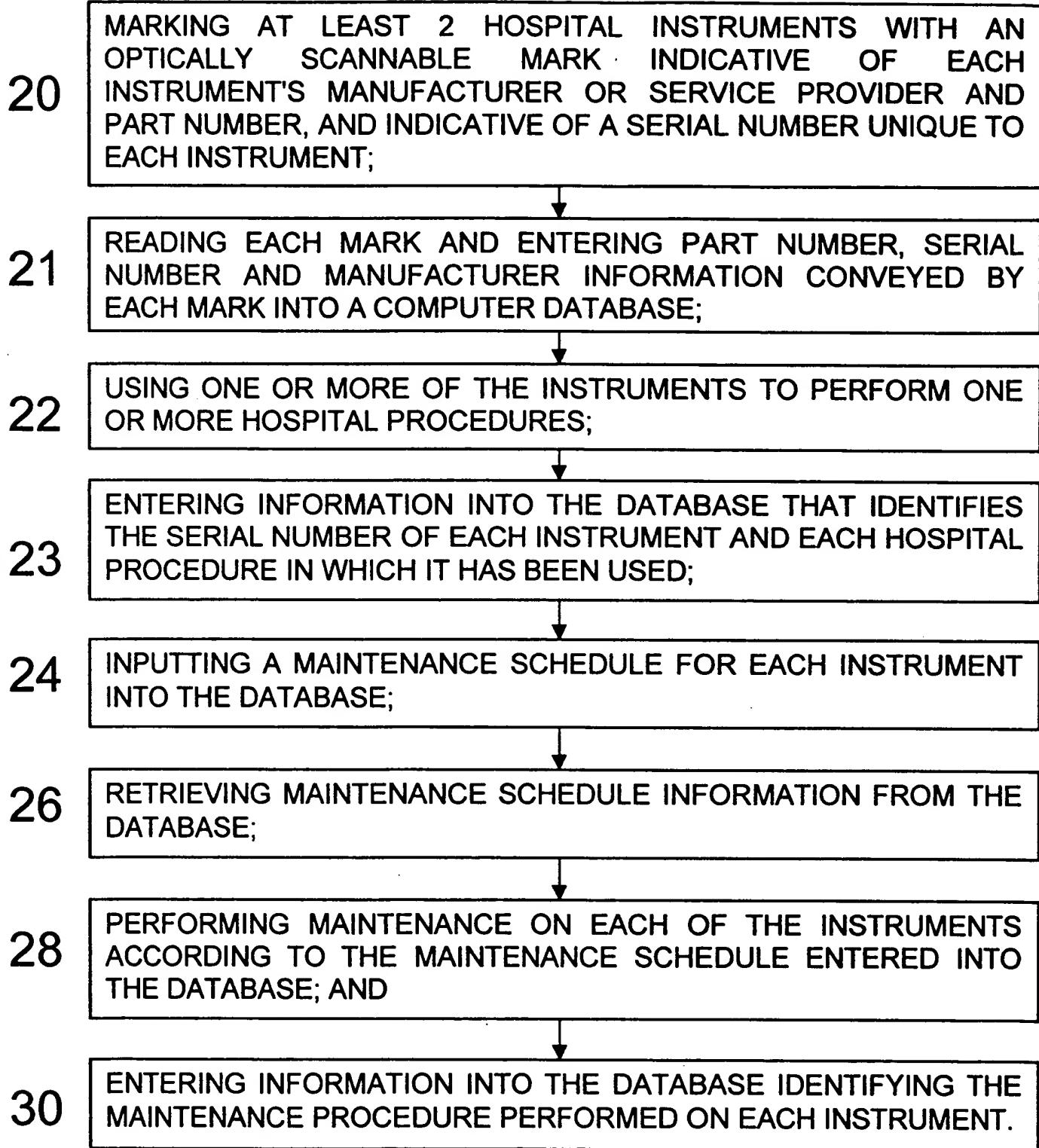


*Figure 1*



*Figure 2*

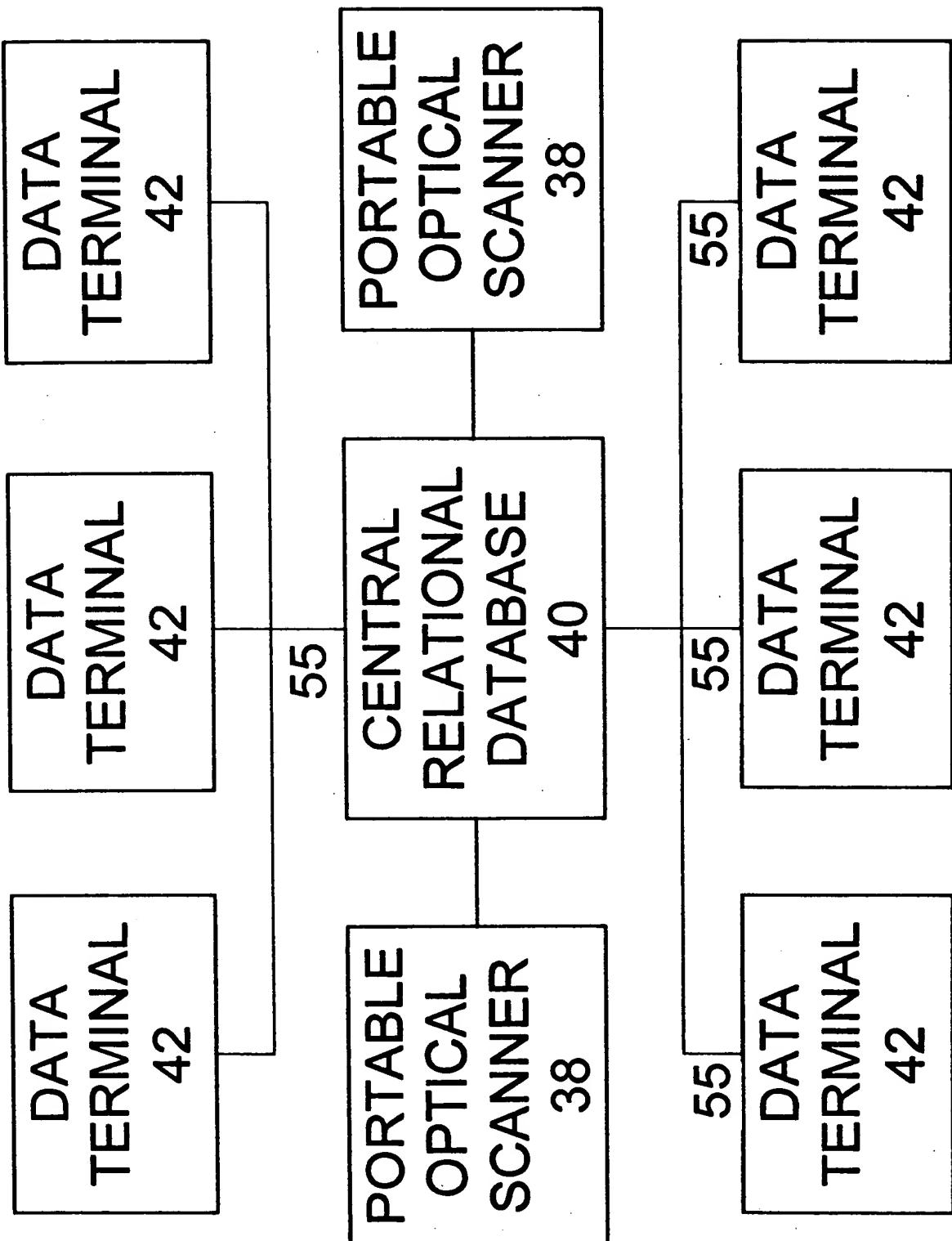
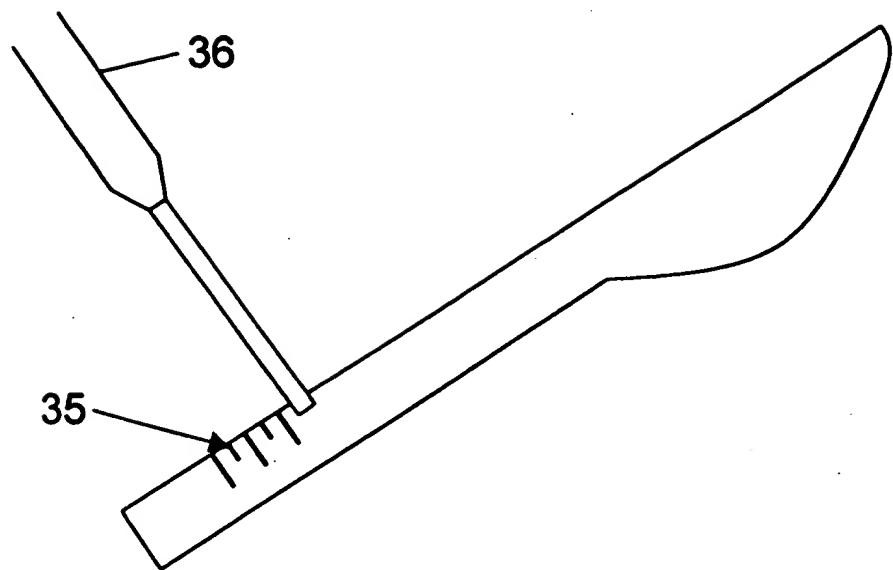
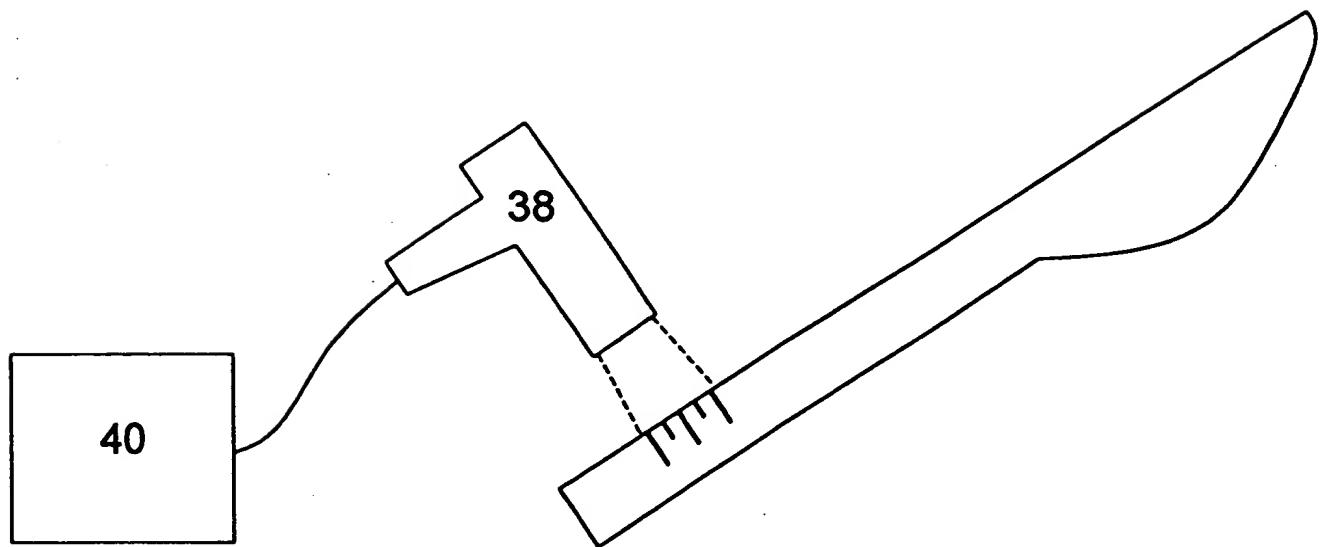


Figure 3



*Figure 4a*



*Figure 4b*

70

MARKING AT LEAST 2 HOSPITAL INSTRUMENTS WITH AN OPTICALLY SCANNABLE MARK INDICATIVE OF EACH INSTRUMENT'S MANUFACTURER OR SERVICE PROVIDER AND PART NUMBER, AND INDICATIVE OF A SERIAL NUMBER UNIQUE TO EACH INSTRUMENT;

71

READING EACH MARK WITH AN OPTICAL SCANNER;

72

TRANSMITTING PART NUMBER, SERIAL NUMBER AND MANUFACTURER INFORMATION CONVEYED BY EACH MARK FROM THE SCANNER TO A COMPUTER DATABASE;

73

USING ONE OR MORE OF THE INSTRUMENTS TO PERFORM ONE OR MORE HOSPITAL PROCEDURES;

74

ENTERING INFORMATION INTO THE DATABASE THAT IDENTIFIES THE SERIAL NUMBER OF EACH INSTRUMENT AND EACH HOSPITAL PROCEDURE IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN USED;

CONTINUED ON FIGURE 5b

*Figure 5a*

CONTINUED FROM FIGURE 5a

75

INPUTTING A MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR EACH INSTRUMENT INTO THE DATABASE;

76

RETRIEVING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE INFORMATION FROM THE DATABASE;

77

PERFORMING MAINTENANCE ON ONE OR MORE OF THE INSTRUMENTS;

78

ENTERING INFORMATION INTO THE DATABASE IDENTIFYING THE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE PERFORMED ON EACH INSTRUMENT; AND

79

RETRIEVING MAINTENANCE HISTORY AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION FOR ONE OR MORE INSTRUMENTS AND DETERMINING WHETHER SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN PERFORMED IN A TIMELY MANNER ON THE INSTRUMENTS.

*Figure 5b*